

Commerce And Industry—S.G Smith, Hillsboro, W, Va. Pocahontas Co.

The Maryland Lumber Company.

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In 1910 some men from Pennsylvania and Maryland came to Pocahontas County and bought timber lands at Denmar aggregating over 17,000 acres, of this 16534 was bought from The Chaffey Wilson Lumber Company of Elkins for which was paid \$309,000.00 this land was located on Oldham and Laurel Runs, a tract or rather a farm for the mill site known as the Rankin farm and purchased from Linda Burns and husband acreage 178 and a small boundary from J.W Beard of Beard, another tract of ~~7~~ acres from L.S and Effie Cochran, and 33 acres deeded by A.D Williams commissioner of school lands.

The men that were in the Maryland Lumber Company were the following President & Manager J.A Dennison, Secretary S.W Sowers, Treas, John G. Ernst all of Hagerstown, Md, and Vice President D.S McNitt of Lewistown Pa. The company was a Corporation and the stock sold mostly in and around Hagerstown but some stock was sold in Pa. Va. & W. Va.

This operation started in May 1910 the mill was set between the R.R and the Greenbrier River in the bottom of The Rankin Farm, this was a double band mill. They erected 25 dwelling houses for the men and their families a boarding house and a Company Store Claude Dennison was store man and Post Master at Denmar. A bridge was built across the river to the main tract of timber which layed on Laurel and Oldham Run which was surveyed by George W Duncan of Marlinton but an old survey gave the following calls: This was the in 1904, starting with the old McClanahan survey and the lands of J.R Droney by the Workman field by a branch of Kinnison Run to the John Kellison tract and cornering with W.C Burr and with J.R Droney to Island Lick Run to Peels Run south to

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the Poage place to the creek to the corners of McClanahan and James Swan Survey in The Beaverlick Mountains to the Rider land then with the McClanahan survey to the Bee Trough Knob crossing Oldham Run, to Joshua Run, to Wolf Lick Run. The Sherwood Tract started with the McClanahan survey taking in the John Burr tract, and another tract known as the Robert Burnside tract and joining the McConahan and James Swan survey including Mill Run. This land was conveyed to Chaffey Wilson Lumber Co. of Elkins by John T McGraw March 10, 1909 and deeded to The Maryland Lumber Co. by Richard Chaffey Pres. of Chaffey Wilson Lumber Co. of Elkins, W.Va. This land was all laying on the East side of the Greenbrier River.

Rail road track was layed from the mill up Oldham and Laurel Run on which they ran 3 engines daily as they had 2 Climax engines and a Shay, they had 2 steam loaders and used 10 teams or 20 head of horses in the skidding, Jake Carey was Woods Superintendent he was originally from Pa. but at this time of Huntersville, W.Va. Camps were built for the men and barns for the horses. Dr. Marvin Smith <sup>Hillsboro</sup> was the Veterinary in charge of the sick and crippled horses. Henry Hufford was shop, mill and yard foreman and Dr. McElwain was the Company doctor in charge.

At the first of the operation they contracted the skidding to E.P and Chester Hendrick but they only skidded a short time when the Company took it over and did the skidding themselves, Hendrick's were from near Renick, W.Va.

J. Vance Dennison son of the Pres. lost an arm on the mill, and Hammond Mann of Pocahontas County was killed by the log train.

Some 150 men were employed on this operation and they sawed over 100,000,000 feet and sold off the North East portion of this tract to

Frank P Kidd then of Hillsboro and now of Beard, W, Va. which was operated by him.

The Maryland Lumber Company sawed all kinds of lumber and for many different purposes as they had a lath mill and made laths from White Pine and other soft wood, and at the same time they had lumber cut for chair backs, most all their lumber was shipped out over the C & O Rail Road, as the local market was very limited. They manufactured both hard and soft wood.

This operation finished up ~~was~~ in 1918 and was sold to the state of W.Va. but they did not clean up until 1919 when everything was cleaned up and moved out. All the land and buildings on the West side of the Greenbrier River was sold to the State for a Colored Tuberculosis Sanitarium this was the Rankin place and the Maryland Lumber Co. buildings the boarding house was used for the hospital which was replaced by the modern up-to-date hospital built in 1937 & 38 by the W.P.A the store building is now used as a Postoffice, the old mill shed is used to store feed and house the machinery that the state has at this farm. The Blue Grass Land Co. bought some 8,000 acres on the left of Laurel Run and later sold it to the state for reforestation the right hand side of the run was bought by The New River Coal Co. operating in Raleigh and Fayette Co. this tract had approximately 9,000 acres in it.

Upon completion of this operation J.A. Dennison and his son went to Stevenson, Alabama and formed The Chickamauga Cedar Co in 1923 and are operating there today.

The Denmar Lumber Company meant a lot to Pocahontas County as it furnished employment for near 150 men and a good percent of these

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were local county men . This lumber town consumed the surplus farm commodities of Denmark, and Beard and was greatly missed when it finished up and moved out.

Today we find at the scene of this operation some of the same buildings used by the lumber company and just above them we find a beautiful concrete structure where the Negroes of this state that have Tuberculosis are treated and this farm is one of the better farms in this section of the county producing an abundance of grains and truck crops that are used at the Denmark Sanitarium, the ashes from this mill helped to build up this river bottom farm .

Denmark got ~~it's~~ its name from the names Dennison and Maryland Denmark as Dennison was the Pres. of this co. and he was from Maryland.

Thus the passing of one of Pocahontas County's larger lumber operations.

Information-J. A. Dennison, Stevenson, Alabama.

Frank Knapp. Denmark. W. Va.

Henry Kincaid. Beard. W. Va.

Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.